



1970 Broadway, Suite 760
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May 4, 2020

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes, Chairperson Assembly Human Services Committee
1020 N Street, Room 124
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2413 (Ting & Wiener) - Support

Dear Chairperson Reyes:

On behalf of California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA), I write in support of AB 2413 (Ting & Wiener), which aims to increase access to CalFresh by improving certain County Welfare Department business processes and ease administrative burdens faced by clients

CFPA is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. For over 25 years, we have worked to improve access to the federal nutrition programs, including CalFresh, our largest and most effective anti-hunger program.

With the number of CalFresh applications surging due to spiking unemployment, it is critical that we improve access and minimize programmatic churn. AB 2413 would work to address this by:

- Requiring implementation of maximum federal flexibility to improve current administrative policies and minimize the paperwork burden for both applicants and recipients to the greatest possible extent.
- Establishing the use of text messaging statewide as well as ensuring counties are employing flexible interview scheduling techniques to speed approval for new applicants.
- Leveraging the opportunity that Medi-Cal eligibility provides to promote and streamline enrollment into CalFresh for those that appear likely eligible.
- Investing in greater program outreach to local Medi-Cal assisters in order to increase dual enrollment between Medi-Cal and CalFresh.

As a proven positive public health intervention and powerful economic stabilizer, CalFresh has a critical dual role to play in California's immediate and long-term COVID19 response. The state and counties should make every effort to ensure that all eligible Californians can access



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CalFresh efficiently and equitably. For these reasons, CFPA supports the changes called for in AB 2413 and urges your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared Call". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jared" being more prominent than the last name "Call".

Jared Call, California Food Policy Advocates

Cc: The Honorable Phil Ting, California State Assembly (Author)
Cathy Senderling-McDonald, County Welfare Directors Association (Sponsor)